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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/696,114 | 10/25/2000 | Toru Kobayashi | 00745/LH | 4404 |

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EXAMINER

HEWITT II, CALVIN L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3621

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/696,114

Applicant(s)

KOBAYASHI ET AL.

Examiner

Calvin L Hewitt II

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 124,126-128,130-137,139-142,144,145 and 147-167 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 124,126-128,130-137,139-142,144,145 and 147-167 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Status of Claims

1. Claims 124, 126-128, 130-137, 139-142, 144, 145, and 147-167 have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 124, 126-128, 130-137, 139-141, 144, 146, and 149-167 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. Claim 124 recites the limitation "the print service charge" in line 21. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claims 126-128, 130-137 and 139-141 are also rejected as they depend from claim 124.

5. Claim 144 recites "an estimated data service charge". However, the claim is silent regarding on what data the data service system comes up with its "estimation". Note, the print service station sets an estimated copy charge based on a desired print specification, therefore, to one of ordinary skill, in order to

derive an estimated data service charge, this specification should be electronically conveyed to the data service system.

Claim 146 is also rejected as it depends from claim 144.

Claim 149 recites "wherein the data storage section specifies image data and the print service station... on the basis of the job ID information". Similarly, Claim 150 recites "the data storage section collates the job ID information sent to the print service station". However, the data storage section never receives the job ID information. Claim 150 also refers to "information transmitted from the data managing section" however, claims 149, 147 and 142, from which claim 150 depends are silent regarding said feature. Claim 151 recites similar deficiencies.

Claims 150-167 are also rejected as they depend from claim 149.

6. Claims 124, 126-128, 130-137, 139-141, and 150 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01.

- a. The omitted structural cooperative relationships are: Claim 124 doesn't recite a network connection for connecting the calculating section with the data service system and/or print service section for receiving, by the calculating section, the data service charge and/or the print service charge in order to calculate the copy charge.

Claims 126-128, 130-137 and 139-141 are also rejected as they depend from claim 124.

b. The omitted structural cooperative relationships are: Claim 150 doesn't recite how the book copying system determines the print service station to which image data is sent based on a comparison of IDs by the data storage section, print service station and the data managing section.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 124, 126-128, 130-137, 139, 140, 142, 144, 145, and 147-167 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Freedman, U.S. Patent No. 4,839,829 in view of Stefik et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,233,684.

As per claims 124, 126-128, 130, 166 and 167 Freedman teaches a system for printing books (column 4, lines 36-42). Specifically, Freedman provides a print service station to allow customers to place and print an order (figures 1A-2B) for a fee (e.g. provides an estimate (column 10, lines 15-35 and

55-63; column 12, lines 42-50). Freedman also teaches a calculating section for calculating charges, based on a fee for using materials and/or printer (column 1, lines 30-41; column 10, lines 15-35 and 55-63; column 12, lines 42-50) and providing a user with an estimate (column 10, lines 55-62). Therefore, as the "estimate" for print services is only an approximation the actual charge may be higher, lower, or equal and the customer would be billed accordingly. Regarding the combining of the charges (claims 1, 131, 132), the Examiner takes Official Notice that consolidated billing is old and well known. For example, phone bills reflect fees and/or charges to a user by different parties or entities such as a local, long distance and international companies. Similarly, when a user uses a credit card at a POS, a first charge is calculated. This charge is transmitted back to the credit card company which then accumulates the sum of the users charges, adds other charges and presents a final charge to be paid by the user in full (American Express) or monthly (VISA, MasterCard). In either case, charges are passed up an hierarchy using an electronic network to an entity that is responsible calculating a final charge. However, Freedman does not specifically, teach a data service system. Stefik et al. teach a data service system, with a communication section, connected to a network having a storage section in which a plurality of data (e.g. book data) are stored in a plurality of data storing locations and a calculating section to calculate a payment to be charged in accordance with the printing result (abstract; figures 1, 2 and 5; column 5, lines

8-10 and 35-40; column 6, lines 50-55; column 9, lines 20-60; column 13, lines 10-19). Stefik et al. also teach data service charges based on at least one of a royalty, conversion a book into an electronic form and transmitting electronic image data (figure 6; column 9, lines 20-40) and encrypting at least one of a data service or print service charge (figures 5-7). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to combine the teachings of Freedman and Stefik et al. in order provide for providing book data for a user to select from to print.

As per claims 142-156, Freedman teaches a system for requesting print services, such as services for printing letters and books (figure 1A; column 4, lines 25-43). Freedman also teaches providing customers with an estimated charge that comprises a cost summary of the different services provided by the system (column 10, lines 1-35 and 55-63; column/line 12/3-13/7) and a customer accepting the charges (column 13, lines 8-19). However, Freedman doesn't include a charge for providing book data. Stefik et al. teach charges associated with providing book data (figure 6; column 9, lines 20-40) and loan rights or "loaning" content to a user for limited time (column 5, lines 45-59). Stefik et al. also teach transmitting an order signal from customer to the data service system and the data service system (e.g. data managing section) transmitting job ID information and image data on the basis of the job ID information (e.g. license data, work ID, watermark, rights, ...etc.) to the printer station in response to the order (figures 5-7; column 8, lines 25-38; column 9, lines 40-64) and transmitting

a data storing location (e.g. the file, watermark) to the print section (column 8, lines 5-38). Stefik et al. also teach a method and system for determining if a user has obtained the right to print content. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to combine the teachings of Freedman and Stefik et al. in order to increase revenues by providing users with access to book data ('829, column 4, lines 36-42; '684, figures 1-4 and 16; column 5, lines 7-10) and to include a charge for said access in the Freedman system's print job cost estimate ('829, column 10, lines 55-63).

As per claims 157-161 and 163, Freedman teaches a system for printing books (column 4, lines 36-42) that includes a customer logging onto a data service system, a customer being provide with then approving a print job cost estimate and the system printing a book (figure 2A; column/line 12/19-13/19). Further, as the system is only providing a customer with an "estimate" (column 10, lines 55-63; column 12, lines 19-67), it is at least obvious that if the actual charge was higher or lower, the customer would be billed accordingly. While Stefik et al. also teach billing a user after it is verified that successful printing took place (column 13, lines 10-19). Therefore, to one of ordinary skill it would have been obvious to consider unsuccessful attempts as "trial" printing and to adjust the charge so as to not charge a user for an unsuccessful copy attempt (e.g. charging based on the printing result).

9. Claims 141, 162 and 164 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Freedman, U.S. Patent No. 4,839,829 and Stefik et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,233,684 as applied to claims 140, 160 and 163 and in further view of Yoshiura et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,131,162.

As per claims 141, 162, and 164, Freedman teaches a system for printing books (column 4, lines 36-42). Stefik et al. teach a system for secured printing of content (e.g. intellectual property, rights, fees) using cryptography and watermarks that comprises sending the content to a user and/or printer over a network (abstract; figures 1, 2 and 5-7). However, neither Freedman nor Stefik et al. explicitly recite applying a digital signature to requested data using public key or other cryptographic scheme. Yoshiura et al. disclose a general teaching of authenticating a communication using digital signatures created by a public key cryptosystem (column/line 1/25-2/58). More Specifically, Yoshiura et al. teach a system for securing data where both provider and customer systems digitally sign data using public key cryptography (abstract; figures 2 and 5; column 6, lines 25-34; column 12, lines 12-28). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to combine the teachings of Freedman, Stefik et al. and Yoshiura et al. in order to protect against fraud and identify illegal copies of content ('684, column/line 10/1-11/23; column 12, line 10-51; '162, abstract; column 3, lines 14-28; column 11, lines 30-48).

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- Farrell teaches a method for estimating the cost of a print job
- Tonkin teaches ordering a print product over a network
- Celorio-Garrido teaches a system for printing books on demand

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Calvin Loyd Hewitt II whose telephone number is (703) 308-8057. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, James P. Trammell, can be reached at (703) 305-9768.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

c/o Technology Center 2100

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 305-7687 (for formal communications intended for entry and after-final communications),

or:

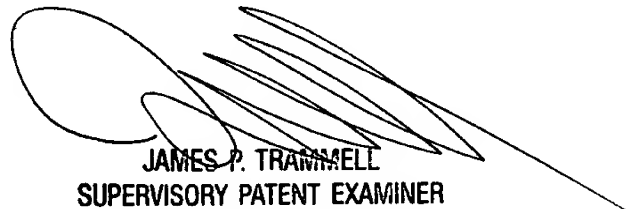
(703) 746-5532 (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5,
2451 Crystal Drive, 7th Floor Receptionist.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Calvin Loyd Hewitt II

May 14, 2004



JAMES P. TRAMMELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600